

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

April 15, 2010

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie M. DiPalma

Liana F. Fenton

William R. O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

**Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent for Academic and
Technology Services**

Raquel Pellerin, Director of Finance

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

5:30 p.m. Parent/Community Chat

The Parent/Community Chat began at 5:35 p.m. Administrative staff

members present were Steven Ruscito, Vincent Giuliano, Michael Mancieri, Raquel Pellerin, Michelle Fonseca, and Stephen Ponte. Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano provided an overview of the NECAP results and the testing process. NECAP test items are based on Grade Level Expectation's and Grade Span Expectation's. Data is based upon the assessment taken in October. Results are returned in February. Reading is assessed in Grades 3-8 and Grade 11 and writing is assessed in Grades 5,8, and 11.

Aquidneck School – Compared to the State in math and reading, Aquidneck School is above the state average in every grade level. To improve test scores, the staff is making sure that instruction reflects the GLE's, using NECAP data, making sure Personal Literacy Plan's are accurate, Rtl (response to intervention), and building co-taught classrooms. Parents are asked to read to their children.

Forest Avenue School – Math scores were significantly above the State in every grade. In reading, scores were 87% compared to the state average of 72% grades 3. A major challenge is the mobility rate at Forest Avenue School. Students that do not meet proficiency require extra time to secure test taking strategies. Concerns are the level funding of resources to support personnel. Steps that are being taken to improve score are concentrating on problem solving, after school tutoring, and IXL Math program.

Gaudet School – Writing scores in grade 8 have consistently risen.

Challenges the school faces are the State's elimination of funds for professional development, fewer dollars for Title I services, reduction of ELA staff, and most classes are at enrollment capacity.

Parents can help by talking to their child everyday, monitoring computer usage, daily reading, and helping their child organize.

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MHS – Grade 11 reading, scores went from 83% to 75% in 2009. Math scores are at 47%, while the State average is 28%.

Challenges are to improve the male student reading scores, improve special education student math scores, managing and supporting students with PLP's, and aligning NECAP with PBGR's.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. All members were present. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. Savastano and the building principals for their work conducting the Parent/Community Chat.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards were presented for the following topics:

oNewport Daily News Student of the Week

oNewport Daily News Athlete of the Week

oAcademic Decathlon

•Teacher of the Year – Mrs. Leslie Gilman was honored at Middletown’s 2010 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Gilman is the Lead Teacher at Aquidneck School and a K-1 Resource teacher.

•Retirement – Mrs. Ellen O’Connor was recognized for her 17 years of service as a School Nurse/Teacher.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Model United Nations Team”

Eleven Middletown High School students participated in the “Harvard Model United Nations Team”, representing the Republic of Chad. Over 3,000 students from around the world participated in the conference from January 28 – 31, 2010.

The students learned debate and compromise skills, as well as public speaking. The students and Advisor Lisa Clark thanked the School Committee for their support, as well as MEC for their assistance in transportation.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

•Capstone Project – Mr. Collins mentored student Cameron Eggeman

on his Capstone Project about Renewable Energy. Cameron discussed the various forms of renewable energy and how much energy a wind turbine would produce at Gaudet School or Middletown High School. Due to FAA regulations, a turbine could not be installed at either location.

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger highlighted items of information:

- Letter from the District Manager of Chartwells.
- Legislative grant that Gaudet School has proposed. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Senator DiPalma for his support.

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for April 15, 2010.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2010 Budget Workshop

- Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2010 School Committee Meeting
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated March 16, 2010, in the amount of \$350,093.29
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated March 30, 2010, in the amount of \$353,073.52
- Approval of Financial Report, dated March 17, 2010, in the amount of \$296,959.33

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPROVAL OF .5 JOB SHARE FOR 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

Kimberly A. Ceglarski Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School

RESIGNATION (Informational Only)

Kimberly Hope Teacher Assistant, Special Education

SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Haley Pfaff Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse Coach

ACTION ITEMS

SMOKING POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Smoking Policy, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

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DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Drug-Free Workplace Policy, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

HIV/HEPATITIS INFECTED STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the HIV/Hepatitis Infected Students and Employees Policy, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION POLICY – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation Policy, 2nd Reading. Motion Passed 4 to 1.

YEA NAY

Michael Crowley William O'Connell

Theresa Spengler

Liana Fenton

Kellie DiPalma

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – 2nd READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Superintendent of Schools Policy, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT POLICY – 1st READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Curriculum Management Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

STUDENT TEACHER POLICY – 1st READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Student Teacher Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

DISSECTION POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Dissection Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

TUTORING POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Tutoring Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

HOMEBOUND AND HOSPITAL EDUCATION POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Homebound and Hospital Education Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

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LITERACY COACH JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the Literacy Coach Job Description, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

STUDENT SERVICES MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTION – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Student Services Manager Job Description, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 09-10-06. Unanimous vote.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve 2010-2011 School Calendar. Unanimous vote.

There was a question as to why we are starting after Labor Day. Mrs. Kraeger responded that this was from feedback of staff and parents. There are two professional days, utilizing the September 14th Primary Election day and the day before Thanksgiving.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the School Funding, Binding Arbitration, and Contract Continuation Resolutions. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Crowley said they feel there are some flaws in the funding formula and Middletown would lose significant funds if this was passed. Twenty other school districts will be voting on a similar resolution.

Middletown School Committee is in opposition to the School Funding Formula, Binding Arbitration, and Contract Continuation resolutions.

CONTRACTS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School

Committee approve the R.I. Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Local 1823) contract from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013. Motion Passed 4 to 1.

YEA NAY

Michael Crowley William O'Connell

Theresa Spengler

Liana Fenton

Kellie DiPalma

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Mr. O'Connell said that the Facilities Department is doing an excellent job, but only a 0% increase is acceptable in these economic times.

Mrs. Spengler said that the present increase is very small and it is not reasonable to ask someone to take 0% for 3 years.

Mrs. Kraeger reminded the committee that last year the custodians were scheduled for a 3.5% increase and chose to take a 0% raise to retain one position. Mrs. Kraeger said it is a fair contract.

BID AWARD

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the Gaudet Middle School Kitchen Equipment bid to Tri-Mark. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

No “Old Business” for April 15, 2010.

NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” for April 15, 2010.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that the K-12 Math Curriculum will be complete after the group meets one more time. The Math Task Force met today. Next year, the K-12 English Language Arts Curriculum will be worked on. The K-12 Science Curriculum will be worked on with EBEC. The implementation piece will follow.

•FINANCIAL – As of the end of March, 69.95% of the budget has been expended. This is slightly lower than previous years. Staff has been sent notice that a moratorium is being placed on spending.

The April 28th meeting with the Town Council has been rescheduled

for May 3rd.

•**FACILITIES** – A recap of 2009 utilities usage charts is included in the School Committee Package. The School Department averaged .34 lower than what National Grid charges for gas. The electrical rate savings will be approximately \$6,300. Mr. Collins said that the school department will jump back and forth in the short term market to get the best rate.

•**Louis Berger Paving Presentation** – Thomas Payne reported on the Aquidneck School traffic study. The study was done to find ways to improve the traffic flow and maximize parking at Aquidneck School. Currently there are 25 parking spaces and 40 staff members. Visitors park on the shoulder of Reservoir Road. Access to the bus loading

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zone does not support two-way traffic. Parents picking up and dropping off in the parking lot forces students to cross the bus travel lane. The current traffic flow causes backup along Reservoir Road and causes backup and delay at the entrance of the school. There is no parking for special events. The existing crosswalks leave students stranded on an island within traffic.

Solutions include isolating traffic flow with a new one-way bus only

road off of Aquidneck Avenue. The State has already been approached regarding curb cuts and are in favor of the project. The would provide 18 more staff parking spaces.

The second phase would add 50 additional parking spaces for special events. The final phase would bring the total to 80 additional parking spaces.

Mrs. Spengler suggested that instead of completing the work in phases, complete the entire project at once, since the equipment will be there.

Mrs. Kraeger said that the town allocated no funds for capital improvement for the schools.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

•Core Committee – The next meeting will be held on May 10th. An ad will be placed in the Newport Daily News to generate new members. Fielding Nair will be meeting with the Directors at Middletown High School on April 28th.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton – Would like to have an engineer from Fielding Nair come

to Middletown to speak about the future of technology.

Mr. Crowley attended the NSBA Conference in Chicago. There was an interesting speaker who is challenging charter schools and NCLB. Mr. Crowley and Mrs. Kraeger attended a meeting today regarding RTTT.

Mr. O'Connell also attended the NSBA Conference in Chicago.

Shawn Barry addressed the committee about School Committee process, including how the public can get information on agenda items and action items that the committee will be voting on. He requested that there be a Parent/Community Chat with "Finances" as a topic. Mrs. Kraeger said that the next Parent Chat is on the school budget.

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ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting 9:32. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk